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STATE-WIDE WPA LIBRARY PROJECT

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# ORGANIZING A STATE-WIDE WPA LIBRARY PROJECT

LEE F. ZIMMERMAN  
*State Director of Libraries*

Library projects as a form of work relief have been in operation since the early days of the depression. People on relief were given library assignments in all types of libraries. Most of them were instructed how to repair and mend books, while others were used as typists or clerical workers.

At that time all library projects scattered widely over Minnesota were set up locally and did not have a unified jurisdiction. Supervision was not always adequate. There was no coordinated program, and there were no definite objectives other than to place needy people in libraries where they could be used.

Then in the fall of 1938 following a visit to St. Paul by Mr. Edward Chapman, WPA Library Consultant of the Washington office, both the state WPA office and the Library Division got together to organize under the sponsorship of the Division a state-wide library project which would supersede all other public library projects previously set up. It was believed that greater advantages and benefits would accrue to libraries under such a plan. It was felt also that existing library projects could be greatly expanded, new ones set up, and the administration of them simplified under state WPA jurisdiction. Later events justified these assumptions.

An application for a state-wide library project was drawn up, forwarded to Washington, and subsequently approved. The project was formally put into operation on October 15, 1938, with the employment of Miss Leona Olson of Albert Lea as state supervisor of the project. Efforts were taken immediately to procure other professional library supervisors to get the project under way.

## SCOPE OF THE PROJECT

Activities sponsored under the terms of the agreement include the following: (1) Preserving and repairing library materials; (2) Indexing; (3) Transcribing catalog

cards; (4) Caring for manuscripts and other records; (5) Assisting with circulation and reference work; (6) Processing of pamphlets, pictures, and clippings; (7) Maintaining reading rooms; (8) Story-telling for children; (9) Arranging exhibits; (10) Incidental constructing and repairing of shelves in libraries and reading rooms; and (11) *Providing special library services in communities without library facilities.*

The first ten activities are designed to strengthen existing libraries and to provide them with much-needed help in the administration of their systems. The 11th is obviously in a different category and is a promotional undertaking with far-reaching implications.

It is with this latter activity that most of this article and the articles of other contributors will deal since librarians in our own, as well as in other states, have shown more than casual interest in the library demonstration part of the Minnesota project.

## OBJECTIVES OF THE PROJECT

The main objective of the project, especially from the WPA point of view, is, of course, to provide employment for needy persons who can be used advantageously in the public libraries of Minnesota. Other objectives are:

- To coordinate all local library projects in operation in various parts of the State under one sponsor and one jurisdiction.
- To bring much-needed clerical assistance to local libraries already established, and to keep small town libraries open to the public for longer hours.
- To provide for library demonstrations in various sections of the State in order to:
  1. Bring books to people who are without library facilities.
  2. Make people library conscious so that their demands for books may

bring about a tax levy by county boards for library purposes and also increased appropriations for libraries inadequately supported at present.

3. Direct the attention of governing bodies and lay opinions to the feasibility of organizing libraries on county or regional lines for the rendering of most effective, economical, and permanently useful library services.
4. Establish the superior advantages of county or regional library systems over those organized for local service.
5. Provide opportunity for library experimentation with larger administrative units preparatory to organizing a regional program under federal and/or state grants-in-aid.

#### ADMINISTRATIVE SET UP

The project is under the administrative control of the WPA and under the technical direction of the Library Division. Salaries of relief people and professional library supervisors, assignments, hours of work, rules and regulations are all prescribed by the WPA. The library program, its development, its coordination and expansion is the responsibility of the Library Division. While technically the Division is sponsor for all library projects in the State, it does not supervise the extensive programs set up locally in the Twin Cities; these are planned and supervised by the librarians concerned. The Division has confined itself chiefly to promoting the WPA demonstration, to supervising relief workers under it, and to informing librarians in small communities of the advantages and benefits to be obtained under the provisions of the WPA project.

The size of the professional library supervisory staff is 5% of the total number of relief workers assigned to library projects. Because of the large number of supervisors required on the local Minneapolis Public Library projects, the supervisory staff of the demonstrations has been necessarily limited.

The selection of professional library supervisors for the project has been influenced by

the functional aspects of the work. It also holds for the types of positions created. Briefly stated the staff is organized along the following lines:

—State Director—The writer, in connection with his regular duties, is serving in this capacity and is largely concerned with the organization and direction of the project.

—State Supervisor—This individual is general executive officer with headquarters at the Library Division. She assists the director in planning, exercises general supervision of the project throughout the State, but is more specifically identified with the demonstrations. She visits, instructs, and assists field supervisors, and is the link between the WPA office, the Library Division, and workers in the field.

—Assistant Supervisor—This person supervises the promotional side of the demonstrations. She prepares articles for the newspapers in the State, specifically for those located in areas where the demonstrations are in progress. She also prepares radio scripts about the demonstrations for broadcasting, writes articles for publication in rural journals, and edits a monthly mimeographed sheet *The Library Demonstrator* published for distribution to members of citizens' committees.

—Field Supervisors—These individuals are located in separate districts and are directly in charge of setting up and promoting library demonstrations.

—Book Selector—The Librarian of the Library Division selects books for the project. Experienced and mature judgment is brought to bear on the problem. Books are selected carefully for their usefulness, readability, and interest to people in rural areas, who have never had direct access to books before.

—Classifier and Cataloger—This person processes all books purchased or donated for the demonstrations. The work is done entirely at headquarters, and the books are ready for circulation when distributed.



—Branch Librarians—These constitute people on relief who are placed in charge of stations containing small collections of 200-300 books and are directed by the field supervisors, who instruct them in charging methods, fines, repairing of books, etc.

—Assistants in Public Libraries—This group also is composed of relief workers who are assigned to library projects in libraries involving clerical and, in some cases, sub-professional duties. They are directly under the supervision of local head librarians.

#### WPA CONTRIBUTIONS

Under the provisions of the project the WPA contributed \$15,000 of federal funds for books and \$6,000 for bookmobiles. Approximately one-half the amount allocated for books has been spent already, but no bookmobiles have been purchased to date since the Minnesota project has not been oriented in that direction. The WPA, of course, provides relief workers for the project and pays all salaries plus traveling expenses of the supervisors. It purchased some equipment—desks, chairs and typewriters for the headquarters office and staff, as well as a limited amount of processing materials for launching the demonstration. The Federal Arts Project has contributed placard exhibits for display at county fairs, PTA Congress meetings, and for state meetings of organized groups.

#### SPONSOR'S CONTRIBUTIONS

The Library Division as the sponsor of the project supplies office space and use of its equipment, bibliographic tools, book collection, shipping and wrapping materials, freight and parcel post, book selection service, and directory supervision.

The Division also has contributed to the demonstrations a large number of books from its traveling library collection and has allocated a portion of its book fund to the purchase of new titles for use on the demonstrations. In addition, it is supplying processing materials, mending supplies, and books donated to the Division.

#### OTHER CONTRIBUTIONS

Libraries serving as county or regional centers for the demonstrations provide quarters, including light, heat, and janitor service, in their buildings for WPA supervisors and storage space for books waiting to be distributed among stations.

Local librarians furnish supervision over relief people assigned to their libraries, supply mending and processing materials. Many of them have donated duplicate copies of their books to the demonstrations.

Communities where branch stations are opened supply material for building shelves. Residents donate books and frequently give personal service where no WPA attendants are available for the stations.

#### THE LIBRARY DEMONSTRATIONS

As previously inferred the library demonstration aspects of the WPA project are the most challenging. While not overlooking other useful and desirable aims which the project makes possible, the Division has concentrated its attention more directly upon *special library services in communities without libraries*. Librarians of the State already are mindful of the inequalities in book service, which exist between rural and urban centers. The project presents a splendid opportunity to put on demonstrations oriented around the county or regional approach for correcting these inequalities. While both WPA and Library Division contributions are limited in amount and therefore preclude the opening of demonstrations in all bookless areas of Minnesota, they do provide the opportunity for a limited number in selected areas—regions which best lend themselves to the purpose economically, socially, and geographically.

In setting up the demonstrations, the Division was faced with three primary concerns: (1) Location; (2) Personnel; and (3) Methods of procedure. Each one is complementary and dependent upon the others for the success, or otherwise, of the undertaking. A discussion of all three is in order and may serve to acquaint the reader with the structure and character of the Minnesota WPA demonstrations.

## LOCATION OF DEMONSTRATIONS

Since tangible contributions limited the number of library demonstrations which could be opened up, it was mandatory to select areas carefully and to locate demonstrations in regions where, presumably, conditions would be favorable to the development of the regional library plan. The main purpose in this approach was to obtain results in such regions as quickly as possible and then to move the demonstrations to other less favored districts where more time might be required to convince their residents of the benefits inherent in a county library system. It was intended, also, to gain initial experience in the favorable areas in order to handle the demonstrations in the more difficult territories with greater facility.

Selection of county demonstration areas was conditioned by the following factors:

1. Geographic
  - Topographic character of the region: its climate, size, trade routes, and highways.
2. Social
  - Type of population: its social, cultural, and political outlook.
  - General attitude towards WPA projects and government spending.
  - Number of civic and service organizations in the area and their probable potential support in sustaining the project.
3. Economic
  - Per capita wealth of the people in a county.
  - Predominant county industry.
  - Indebtedness or otherwise of a county.
  - Financial ability of a county to maintain a county library system.
4. Library
  - Availability of a strong supporting library in the county, which might be expected to cooperate in putting on a demonstration and which, under a legally set up county system, could effectively serve as a strong central library.

—Local interest of people living in bookless counties for library service.

This was partly determined by the number of requests sent to the Division from different counties for information on how to start a library.

—Number of people in a county with or without direct access to books.

—Potential book supply of a county.

## 5. WPA

—Availability of relief people in rural areas. This was inadvertently overlooked at the beginning but subsequently became an important factor.

This yardstick was applied to all counties seriously considered for a library demonstration. The first demonstration was initiated in Blue Earth County on November 15, 1938. This was followed several months later by four more in Rice, Mower, Freeborn, and Goodhue Counties. Demonstrations will be taken to other selected counties as quickly as circumstances permit.

## SUPERVISORY PERSONNEL

The professional supervisory positions created to operate the demonstrations have been enumerated briefly elsewhere. The exacting nature of these posts necessitated the appointment of individuals with special qualifications over and above technical library proficiency. Professional competency was not the only criteria upon which selection was based. Developing a library demonstration is essentially a promotion job involving public relations on a wide scale. Accordingly, the aim was to procure library organizers who possessed the following attributes of character: attractive personality, ability to work with people, intelligence, imagination, primary initiative, good voice, platform speaking ability, and professional enthusiasm for the task. Previous library experience was required but was not unduly stressed.

These high standards did not simplify the task of selection, nor did the salary remuneration offer great inducement. However, despite disheartening efforts, three field supervisors were obtained who met all tests, and

who, so far, have done a magnificent job in promoting county demonstrations.<sup>1</sup>

#### METHODS OF PROCEDURE

From the very beginning it was realized that if Minnesota's library frontiers were to be broken down by means of demonstrations, methods of procedure were especially important. It was felt also that methods adopted should be practical and in line with the realities as we understood them. The Library Division had no previous experience in an undertaking of this kind, and while it was a simple matter to draw up paper plans in the form of a blue print, this method had its own obvious weaknesses. On the other hand, the Canadian and Louisiana experiments offered a point of departure, but it was believed that the wholesale application of methods suitable to other sections of the continent would not necessarily be applicable to a state such as Minnesota.

It was decided finally to organize the initial demonstration somewhat loosely permitting actual experience in the field to determine the correctness or otherwise of the basic approaches.

Plans tentatively formulated for the demonstrations did not include regional libraries as a primary objective. On the contrary, they were based on demonstrations for counties only with a strong central library. The organization of regional libraries was to wait upon the successful operation of county units, after which, adjacent counties logically a part of the area, were to be brought in to form a regional WPA demonstration.

Moreover, the plans did not involve the use of book trucks. Not until large regional units are developed will book trucks be required, if then, since the supervisors themselves distribute books among stations in their own cars. In addition, the demonstrations are not pivoted around the circulation of books from trucks but rather around the establishment of branches and stations accessible to rural people in the various communities of the counties.

It should be stated here that the methods used in organizing and developing the dem-

onstrations are intended to inform the public of prevalent library conditions, to educate them in the ways by which county service may be available to all, and to prove to them by way of the demonstrations how a well-integrated, economically administered county system can serve the whole population in a given area. These methods took the form of: (1) Publicity; (2) Organization of citizen groups; and (3) Practical demonstrations which would serve as a basic pattern for organizing county systems under legal sanction and in accordance with the present laws for their establishment.

While all three are important, it is around publicity that special effort is centered. A publicity supervisor was procured on the project whose job it is to prepare weekly news releases for publication and to write weekly scripts for broadcasting over local stations in areas where demonstrations are under way.

In addition to publicity, other more direct approaches are used. WPA library supervisors working in the field secure the cooperation of the library board in the community selected as the logical place for a county demonstration. They contact county leaders, organize a skeleton citizens' committee, secure speaking engagements at meetings of service clubs and women's groups, and arrange with the local radio station for broadcasting library scripts. They also obtain the support of local newspaper editors, organize branch libraries or stations, and distribute books among them. As the program develops, a large group of representative citizens in the area is called together at which time the objectives of the demonstrations are fully outlined. Efforts are made then to secure their affiliation with a citizens' library movement for the purpose of obtaining a legally established county library system.

These as well as other methods have been employed by the Library Division in the organization and development of the WPA project. They have been noted only briefly here since they are to be the subject of more expansive treatment by other contributors to this issue.

<sup>1</sup> One of them, Miss Winifred Carlsen, recently resigned to accept an appointment out of the State. The other two are Dorothy Hansen and Mary Lovaas.

## DEVELOPING A STATE-WIDE WPA LIBRARY PROJECT

LEONA A. OLSON

*State Supervisor, WPA Library Project*

After the initial organization of the project was completed, the first steps necessary for its development were begun. The newly appointed supervisors under the state-wide setup directed most of their attention to the demonstration phase of the project and to WPA methods and functions.

State leaders of agricultural extension and Farm Bureau officials who were informed of the objectives of the project gave it their hearty endorsement. State presidents of various service clubs and other organizations were also advised of the program and were asked to submit the names of officers of their local units. This year the League of Women Voters included the study of state library conditions on their program, and the Parent-Teachers Association, which has always been interested in libraries, asked for a speaker at its state convention.

Procedures on the demonstrations were influenced in part by the library laws of the state. The law provides that a tax up to one mill on property not already taxed for library purposes may be levied for the establishment of a county library. Further provision is made for the commissioners to contract with an existing library in the county, or in an adjoining county, to give this service. Consequently, quickest results from a demonstration might be expected in the counties with the soundest financial standing and a strong existing library.

It then followed that the next step was to develop the demonstrations in the light of the library conditions which obtained for the state as a whole. Population, financial, and library statistics for each county were compiled and studied. In this way it was found that the greatest number of counties with strong existing libraries and a high assessed valuation were in WPA District 4, which includes thirty-three counties in the southern end of the state, with district headquarters at New Ulm. In order that the first unit could be organized as close as possible to the WPA district office where helpful assistance and

supervision would be available, it was decided to open up the initial demonstration in Blue Earth County which had a well-developed library in the county seat at Mankato.

### METHODS OF APPROACH

The librarian and board of trustees of the Mankato library were first asked for their cooperation in the demonstration. They evidenced interest in the extension of library service throughout the county and agreed to give space in the library for demonstration headquarters.

With this cooperation assured, various county workers such as the county agent, home demonstration worker, superintendent of schools, and county nurse were contacted and asked for advice in organizing the demonstration. It was their suggestion that book stations first be set up before a county-wide citizens' organization be formed. They supplied the names of various leaders and club members in the county who could be contacted for assistance.

All the newspaper editors in the county were visited and informed of the project's aims. They were asked to cooperate in printing weekly news releases which would be sent to them from the sponsor's office. The local radio station also agreed to give time for a weekly broadcast. Talks on the purpose of the demonstration and the library needs in the county were given before all the service clubs in Mankato. The Junior Chamber of Commerce volunteered to sponsor a book drive. Various members of the faculty of the Teachers College were enthusiastic in their approval of the plan, and subsequently proved to be of the greatest assistance to the library supervisors.

A survey of the county showed that Amboy, with a population of about 800, was the largest community without a library. This seemed the logical place to set up the first demonstration station. The mayor and other village officials were visited, and arrangements were made for the supervisor



to speak before the Amboy Commercial Club. The club voted to co-sponsor the demonstration and furnish funds for shelving and sundry supplies. The post office seemed the best possible location for the station, and permission was granted for its use. A very good WPA worker was found to act as station attendant and was given instruction in the simple library processes. When the shelves of books were in order, the station was opened to the public on January 4, 1939, and with that the demonstration was actually under way.

#### ORGANIZATION OF THE DEMONSTRATIONS

This plan of procedure outlined above was followed in setting up stations in other towns in the county. Leaders suggested by the county workers were asked to make arrangements for the supervisor to speak before the local organizations in each community most likely to co-sponsor the project, and the station was set up.

Whenever possible, of course, a WPA worker was placed in charge of the station. Community leaders were asked to suggest eligible and reliable people who could be transferred from other projects, or who could be certified for WPA work. In many cases it has been found that people in small towns who had looked askance upon the government works program came to a new realization of its social value after some needy and self-respecting individual with whom they were personally acquainted was given this opportunity to earn a living. Many of the workers in the library stations had not formerly been certified for WPA work because there was no other project operating in their communities. The best stations are those which have good attendants who know the people they are serving, and who can give real service by interpreting the library to the communities. Whenever possible, weekly story hours are conducted for the children. These are very popular in small towns where there are no movies or other sources of public entertainment.

In some of the larger towns where a branch with an attendant would be practical even under a permanent system, suitable headquarters for such a setup has not been avail-

able. In other instances demonstration library stations are kept open by volunteers from the co-sponsoring organizations because no eligible worker can be found in the community.

Where there is no room, and where the population is too small to warrant a branch with an attendant, collections of books are placed in any location which is easily accessible to the public and where there is an attendant who will assume responsibility for the books. These present a colorful and interesting variety: barber shops, grocery and hardware stores, lumber company and newspaper offices, private homes, filling stations, and even a cheese factory. Where the school is definitely a community center and no other location is available, the station may be placed there. No attempt is being made in these demonstrations to give special school service because of the limited number of books available for project use. However, a large number of children's books are included in all the collections sent out to branch stations.

#### PUBLICITY

The carefully planned program of publicity which will be discussed in detail elsewhere in this issue has been one of the most valuable factors in the development of the demonstrations. Newspaper editors in general have been greatly interested in the county library idea and have given an unusually large amount of space to all news releases. As the project developed it was found increasingly easy to move into new territory because people had read about the demonstrations in other communities. The radio has also been an important medium of publicity, and the supervisors report that they receive comments from interested listeners every day. Because of the excellent quality of the scripts, the program directors of all the stations carrying the program count them among the best of their educational features. Many more requests for the demonstration than can be taken care of have come in as a direct result of radio and newspaper publicity.

In Mankato, Faribault, and Northfield, the Junior Chamber of Commerce and other cooperating organizations sponsored drives



for books to be used in the demonstrations, with the understanding that all titles collected in this manner would be left in the county as a nucleus for a permanent collection. Although an unexpectedly large number of usable books and magazines were collected in this way it is felt that the greatest value of book drives of this type is in the publicity and sense of community participation which they involve. Plans are being formed to work on county-wide book drives based on some sort of a selective list.

#### CITIZENS' LIBRARY COMMITTEES

The detailed program of publicity, designed to point out the existing need for library service and to indicate the means of overcoming this deficiency, was the first most important aspect of the demonstrations. Of parallel importance is the development of citizens' organizations to carry out the plans for turning the demonstrations into permanent tax-supported library systems.

Demonstrations are in progress at the present time in six counties: Blue Earth, Rice, Mower, Waseca, Freeborn, and Goodhue. The first three were organized under the plan described earlier, with stations being set up in each community before a county-wide citizens' meeting was called. This left the burden of responsibility on the supervisors, however, so a different plan was followed by each supervisor when she undertook operations in an adjoining county.

A meeting of a nucleus group of six to twelve county leaders was first called in the county seat. These included the local librarian, a board member, the county superintendent, county agent, and other county workers, as well as any other person such as a district P.T.A. chairman, who could give valuable advice and assistance.

This group suggested the names of fifty to a hundred active county citizens who might be expected to interest themselves in the library movement, and pointed out some outstanding person who could be asked to act as temporary chairman at the first meeting. They also proposed the date for the meeting, and helped compose the letter of invitation to

be signed by the temporary chairman. This procedure was designed to keep the initiative in the hands of local groups where it properly belonged.

The letters, which were sent out about ten days in advance of the meeting, indicated the state of existing library conditions in the county, and stated that a discussion would be held concerning the possibilities of working for county library service. Best attendance seems to be insured by a follow-up post card timed to arrive on the day of the meeting. Attendance at these first meetings varied between twenty-five and seventy-five according to the time of year, the weather, and the accessibility of the location.

The temporary chairman introduced as the main speaker the state WPA supervisor, who spoke about existing library conditions in the state and county, and who discussed the county library laws. The plan of the WPA demonstrations underway in other counties was presented, and the county supervisor was introduced. She in turn spoke of the work being done in the adjoining county, and if possible introduced a member of the citizens' committee from that county who gave his impression of the work being done.

The chairman then called upon various people present to give their views on the need for library service in their communities. A vote was taken to sponsor the demonstration in that county, and a preliminary organization was formed. It was the consensus of opinion in all counties that a small executive committee would be most efficient in the preliminary stages of the demonstration, so members were elected to serve in this capacity. In the larger counties, this group is composed of two people from each commissioner's district; if the county is small, one member is elected from each community. Officers of the county-wide organization are included in the executive committee.

These committee members are expected to make arrangements for the establishment of the demonstration stations, and are responsible for the organization of local citizens' committees in their areas. In every case it has been the general consensus of opinion that no real work could be done by the com-

mittee until after the demonstration had been underway for some time.

The citizens' committees in two of the counties in which the demonstrations had been operating longest appeared before the commissioners last August to request that a library tax be levied. In both cases the commissioners were in favor of the idea, but felt that there should be evidence that a larger percentage of their constituents were in favor of the new tax before it could be levied. This reaction pointed to the need for more intensive organization of the citizens' committees, and for different types of publicity.

This fall the supervisors will be working with the present committee members to enlarge the membership in each community, to work out ideas for raising funds for sponsor's contributions to keep the demonstrations running longer, and to spread publicity through channels other than the radio, newspaper, and talks by the supervisor. Skits, questions and answers about the county library, statistical facts, and outlines for talks will be distributed for use at all kinds of club meetings. The important problem is to keep the committees working so that their interest will not die out. "The Library Demonstrator," distributed to all committee members in each county, has been sent out for several months. This is a mimeographed bulletin designed to keep committee members informed of activities in other counties.

#### CONCLUSIONS

As is usual in any educational movement, there may be an acute consciousness of the need for libraries, but the leadership required to bring about the action necessary to alleviate this need is slow to develop. Especially when new tax monies must be levied, however small the cost in comparison to the service rendered, the voices of the few dissenters are usually louder than the murmur of the approving majority.

There is no question of the need for rural library service in Minnesota, of course, and

the reception given the demonstrations has proved that there is also an active desire for books among rural people. All that remains now is to crystallize this desire into action. This can be done, as has been pointed out, only through more intensive work on the part of citizens' library committees.

So many requests for demonstrations have come in from all over the state that from now on there will be no need to go into any county where there has not been an articulate expression of need. In all these cases the formation of county-wide citizens' committees is being urged as a necessary preparation for the demonstration when it becomes available. Some of these requests have come from counties which should logically become part of a regional system, as there are no strong existing libraries within their boundaries. Education toward regional service is already being developed in Waseca County, where a demonstration is now operating. As soon as sponsor's fund can be raised for their operation, book trucks may be used to demonstrate the most logical type of service for these larger areas.

The next step in the development of the project will be to take the demonstration into Stearns County, with headquarters in St. Cloud. This will extend operations into another WPA district, as well as into a county where there has long been a desire for library extension service. St. Cloud also represents a logical center for regional development.

The library project has been somewhat hampered in operation by the many changes in WPA policies which have taken place since its inception. This has necessitated, among other things, the curtailment of the supervisory staff due to drastic reductions of certified personnel. At the present time, however, all school library projects are also being incorporated into the state-wide library setup. As soon as reassignments can be made to these projects, it will be possible to enlarge the supervisory staff and extend operations to far greater advantage.

## SELECTING BOOKS FOR WPA LIBRARY DEMONSTRATIONS

ELEANOR DAVIS  
*Librarian, Library Division*

Books for the county demonstration libraries are provided by the WPA by the State Library Division, by public libraries and by local contributions. After being cataloged and processed in the offices of the Library Division, these books are shipped to the demonstration centers for distribution.

### TYPE OF BOOKS NEEDED ON THE DEMONSTRATIONS

"Books purchased with project funds should form a basic collection which reflects the reading level and interests of the communities to be served," according to Mr. Chapman, Library Consultant of the WPA.

Since the purpose of the demonstrations is the establishment of tax-supported county or regional libraries, books sent to each demonstration center must not only form a basic collection looking toward the establishment of a permanent county system, but must also provide such convincing proof of the library's value to all residents that they will voluntarily tax themselves for its continuance.

Books have been selected specifically for the rural residents of the state: those on farms and in the very small communities. A large proportion of these people are unaccustomed to using public libraries, and many of them depend for their reading on the newspaper and farm journal rather than upon books. It is important, therefore, that the books selected be adapted to their reading abilities and at the same time provide in the most readable form material vital to their needs and interests.

### TYPE OF BOOKS SELECTED

Used books contributed by public libraries, individuals and the Library Division consist largely of standard and popular novels of an earlier day, and miscellaneous works covering a wide range of subjects, but very few books for children.

New books are purchased to supplement these contributions. In the field of adult fic-

tion, the purchases include both popular reprints by such authors as Tarkington, Rinehart, Sabatini, and the better recent popular novels such as *Gone with the wind*, *The citadel*, *Rebecca* and *The yearling*. The most entertaining novels of wide appeal are selected, while the cheaper type of western adventure and love stories which contribute nothing original in style or subjects are excluded.

In the field of adult subject books, the demand for entertainment is met by the inclusion of recent readable adventure and travel narratives: books of scientific exploration like *Beneath tropic seas*, *Digging in Yucatan*, *On the trail of ancient man*; western narratives like *Riding the mustang trail*, *Desert wife*, and the works of Will James; adventure in far lands like *Goose feathers*, *Salamina* and *Land below the wind*. Here again the attempt is made to avoid those books which are written to sell, in favor of such fine and thoughtful works as *North to the Orient*, *Wind, sand and stars*, *Pilgrims of the wild*, *True North*, *Madame Curie*.

Agriculture, machinery, vocations, child care, the home and self-help are a few of the subjects included to meet the immediate everyday problems of the reader.

Books on social and industrial problems and on world affairs, essential to an enlightened public opinion, include such basic titles as *Mein Kampf* and *Revolution of nihilism*, while for the reader who may find these too difficult there are analyses like *Inside Europe*, *Inside Asia* and *Not peace but a sword*. Narratives like *Men in battle*, *Assignment in Utopia*, *Native's return* and *We shall live again* provide the reader with a better understanding of the people and movements in Spain, Russia, Yugoslavia and Czechoslovakia today.

The selection of children's books is based on *The Children's Catalog*. The aim has been a well rounded collection for boys and girls from pre-school to high school age. While the best recently published works are pur-

chased, less emphasis is placed on the new than on the classics of childhood which are obtained in the most attractive of the inexpensive editions.

#### PREPARATION OF BOOKS FOR THE DEMONSTRATIONS

After selection is made by the Library Division, lists of books to be purchased with WPA funds are sent to the State WPA office where they are approved and submitted for bid. In most cases, five copies of each title are ordered to provide one copy for each of five county or regional demonstrations.

All books, both purchased and donated, are classified and cataloged by a non-certified WPA worker at the Library Division. The catalog cards, book cards and pockets are typed, and the books processed by certified WPA workers. Two book cards are sent in

each volume, one for records at the demonstration center, the other for use in charging to the borrower. Shipments to demonstration centers for distribution to their branches and stations are composed of about equal numbers of new and used volumes. Adult fiction, adult non-fiction and books for children each comprise approximately one-third of the collections sent.

By the end of the first year of the demonstrations, 17,841 volumes had been cataloged. The WPA purchased 6,866 of these; the Library Division purchased 1,486 and also contributed 9,489 used books from its own collection. Nearly all these books together with others donated locally, are now being used in the demonstration areas. Circulation in the field is being watched to ascertain the relative demand for various types of books, and the book selection policy will be revised to meet such needs whenever the occasion warrants.

"... The library does its best to find out what wants the public has developed, and it meets those wants in so far as its resources permit. There is no criterion of what the public needs except its expressed wishes for particular books. The librarian may not consider the books of the best, but who is he to dictate to the public?

"This argument, it will be noted, is exactly the one used by a department store head to justify him in offering for sale good merchandise, vulgar merchandise, merchandise that can float only on the folly of the purchaser. The department store exists for the purpose of making money for its owner. There is no pretense of a public service about it, except occasionally for advertising purposes. It is a question whether the library, which exists not to make money but to perform a public service, does not require another argument for its book selection and circulation policy."—Alvin Johnson, in his *The public library—a people's university*. New York, American Association for Adult Education, 1938. \$1.00 P. 70.



# INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE WPA PROJECT

JEAN E. LEHMANN

*Assistant Supervisor, State-wide WPA Library Project*

**MILLION MINNESOTANS  
WITHOUT LIBRARIES**

**LACK OF LIBRARIES  
IN COMMUNITY IS  
DISCUSSED AT MEET**

**WPA PROGRAM  
BRINGS BOOKS  
TO ALL PEOPLE**

**LIBRARY PLAN  
WINS COUNTY  
CO-OPERATION**

**RURAL AREAS  
TO BENEFIT BY  
WPA PROGRAM**

**LIBRARY BOOKS ARRIVE  
FOR COUNTY PROJECT**

**FIRST STATE WPA  
LIBRARY COMING  
TO AMBOY SOON**

**FARM UNIT TO  
PUSH LIBRARY**

**TWELFTH BOOK  
STATION OPENS  
IN COMMUNITY**

**PERMANENT RURAL LIBRARY  
GROUP FORMED IN COUNTY**

**BOOK STATION IS  
SPONSORED BY IM-  
PROVEMENT LEAGUE**

**COUNTY LIBRARY STATIONS  
CIRCULATE 10,000 BOOKS**

**RURAL MOWER  
COUNTY REALLY  
READS BOOKS**

**WPA LIBRARY  
PROJECT IS  
GROWING**

Under scores of headlines such as these noted at the left — from banner heads to those in the smallest type — thousands of inches of newspaper space have been devoted to county libraries during the last year.

In six counties, county library demonstrations have been organized as part of the State-wide WPA Library Project, sponsored by the Library Division of the Minnesota State Department of Education.

To aid in the success of this project, it was desirable that residents of these counties should be informed of certain facts:

1. *Library conditions in general*—Forty-five million people in the United States are without library service. Over a million rural Minnesotans are without access to libraries and books. Only thirteen county libraries have been established in the state, and only six of these receive appropriations large enough to give effective service.

2. *Library conditions locally*—In the six library demonstration counties, the percentage of people without library service ranged from 40 to 90 per cent. Some of these counties had but one library, usually at the county seat; others had one or two small town libraries in addition. None of the rural people had libraries at hand.

3. *The value of a county library*—A library on a county-wide basis is effective and economical, and is recognized as the best system of making books available to every reader in the county — as the only means of equalizing library opportunities between rural and urban residents.

4. *The purpose of the WPA Library Project*—People were informed that WPA county library demonstrations are set up to bring books immediately to those now without public libraries. This is accomplished through the county system, thus demonstrating its practicability.

In presenting these facts to the public, the local newspapers were the first avenue of approach. (All but one of the six coun-



ties had at least one daily newspaper and each county had from four to eight weeklies.) Since editors are interested in stories about their own communities that directly touch the lives of their readers, local news was featured in all articles released. Stories were prepared for each county on the progress of the demonstration locally and rounded out with material on library conditions in the area. The county library as the medium through which all people might enjoy the advantages of books was constantly stressed.

Such a program presented its problems. The facts, both general and local, were gathered at and released from the WPA Project headquarters at the Library Division in St. Paul. Developments in the demonstration area had to be turned into timely news stories each week for some 40 newspapers. To accommodate schedules on the smaller papers, stories had to be sent out about a week before publication, yet be "news" when they appeared in print.

This problem could be met, and was met, in only one way—through the closest co-operation from the WPA field supervisors who were organizing and operating the county demonstrations. Through their constant effort, the information program was synchronized with their work in the counties.

Releases were sent regularly and frequently to every editor. Whether every article was used was not considered as important as the fact that they reached the editor. Then, if space were available, he had a timely story on hand. In addition, he could have confidence that he was receiving *all* the news. Authoritative articles sent from one official source gave assurance, too, that what was published would be correct and would include the names of project sponsors, so important for follow-up work.

In addition to news stories, some illustrative material was used. Pictures were limited since they are expensive to take and expensive to make into plates for newspaper use. A few were taken—one of the state supervisor and cataloger looking over some of the thousands of books to be used on the project,

and several of the demonstration book stations with prominent local people inspecting the books. These were used in a number of daily papers, locally and in the Twin Cities, and were also used with magazine articles.

For weekly papers, two sets of mats were made—one was a graph showing the number of rural people in Minnesota without library service, the other a diagram illustrating how a county library operates.

Though the information program was concentrated in the six demonstration counties, a series of articles was also released to every paper in the state—500 dailies and weeklies. These stories stressed the inequality of library conditions in the state, pointed the way to change them, and explained the advantage of the county library system.

Other publicity media also proved valuable; radio, for example, which is now a leading factor in supplying facts for public consumption. Again, concentration was in the demonstration area, and time was requested on local stations. KYSM, Mankato; WCAL, Northfield; and KATE, Austin and Albert Lea, contributed time for weekly broadcasts. Field supervisors called on the station managers and explained the project. Sample scripts were submitted if requested.

Planned for ten minutes, the programs were of the interview type between WPA supervisor and announcer. In a first series of 26 scripts, the announcer asked the supervisor questions on every phase of the county library plan—how it would benefit people in his county, how it had worked out elsewhere, and how it could be secured locally.

Again the co-operation of the WPA field supervisors was essential. A basic script was provided and each supervisor added local news items on the progress of the demonstration. The original scripts were injected with as much human interest material as possible—bits on the reception given the project in their territory or the need they found there for it, sent in by the supervisors.

A second series of scripts attempted to show some of the benefits of the county library by means of discussions on several types of books made available through the

demonstrations. A third series presented again the county library system in the form of a question and answer "game" in which the radio audience was given opportunity to answer the questions before the answers were announced for them to check their scores.

One state-wide broadcast was presented on the Minnesota Farm Bureau program, when the state supervisor, in a short interview, mentioned the chief facts behind the project and its purposes.

Periodicals as an information medium were not overlooked, and magazines which reach the rural people were recognized as especially important. One article was sent to, and subsequently published in "The Farmer." Another is to be published shortly in the "Farm Journal and Farmer's Wife." Both journals have a wide circulation in Minnesota. These articles are also based on the library demonstration and library needs, and are illustrated with pictures taken at demonstration book stations. Items were also sent periodically to the "Minnesota Farm Bureau News," a monthly publication.

Other media used to convey information to the public includes:

*Letters*—These were sent to editors with first news releases, explaining the project and asking their cooperation. They were also sent to residents of demonstration counties, telling them of meetings and inviting them to join citizens' library committees.

*Bulletins*—The "Library Demonstrator" is published monthly in the interests of the citizens' library movement, containing news items about library activities in each county, and notes on library facts and findings. It is mailed to all citizens who indicate an interest in the demonstration or become members of the citizens' committees. A bulletin explaining the demonstration and the purpose of a local book drive, was prepared for distribution to Northfield residents in connection with a drive conducted by Boy Scouts to add to the books supplied for the demonstration.

*Exhibits*—Large placards were prepared by the Federal Art Project illustrating several

important facts: i. e., number of people in urban and rural Minnesota without library books, per cent of population in each county without books, and others lending themselves to illustration. These are used for exhibits at county fairs, state and district meetings of such organizations as the League of Women Voters, the Parent-Teacher Association, and the Minnesota Education Association. They are available also for display in demonstration book stations and at meetings. Clippings showing the various types of news items prepared on the project and how they were used have been displayed on large placards for use at meetings. This exhibit was shown at the American Library Association meeting in San Francisco.

*Talks, Interviews, Skits*—Suggestions for brief presentations by interested residents before local organizations were prepared on the major facts concerning the county library system and the WPA project.

And the results of this information program? In addition to the excellent amount of newspaper space devoted to library releases in the past year, further co-operation was evident. Editors wrote enthusiastic editorials. At least one columnist used many notes about the library. One paper created a column devoted to library facts. Much extra space was given special events, such as book drives and county library committee activities.

There can scarcely be accurate figures on the number of people who have read the newspaper releases or listened to the radio broadcasts. Still more difficult would be an attempt to gauge at this time the direction or amount of public opinion aroused.

But comments from here and there indicate that both readers and listeners are aware of the project, and that a first step has been taken in laying groundwork in these counties on which solid, permanent county libraries may arise as a result of presenting the people with facts about the WPA library project and its objectives.

## THE HUMAN SIDE OF THE PROJECT

*As Reported by the Field Supervisors*

Because of the response and enthusiasm that is met with on every side, the field supervisors working on the State-wide WPA Library Project are convinced that theirs is the most interesting and satisfying of all possible jobs. There are set-backs, of course, and the work is hard, with irregular hours and constant travel and many unnecessary and annoying difficulties. Care must be taken not to offend personal and community prejudices, a great deal of ingenuity and tact must always be employed. But no other form of library work could ever bring more color and variety and satisfaction. After a morning spent in routine work of changing collections, training a worker, or writing reports, the afternoon may be spent at a Bible class meeting, where all present, including the guests, are expected to respond to roll call with a Bible verse on a specific subject, complete with chapter and verse. Let it be said to the credit of the profession that the supervisor who was faced with this test passed it with flying colors! In the evening it may be necessary to drive several miles out into the country to speak at a Grange meeting, probably struggling to be heard over the wails of a crying baby. The most valuable results from these excursions usually come after the program, discussing the project over the coffee cups, or dancing the Virginia Reel until midnight.

There is a great deal of satisfaction to be found in working with these intelligent, genuine and hospitable rural people. Many of them sometimes seem over-cautious and conservative, it is true, but for the most part they are responsive and alert to new ideas.

Someone remarked to one of the supervisors, "I'm sure you'll never find a town that doesn't want a library!" That has certainly been the case, even when some of the village fathers have thought otherwise. In one of the towns the genial storekeeper agreed to house the books, although he confessed later to the supervisor that he had been extremely skeptical about the amount of use that would be made of them. When she came back at the end of a month's time to change the collection and get the circulation

record, he greeted her with the greatest enthusiasm. "We've circulated 130 books!" he exclaimed. "Why that's more than I thought people would read in a year! Not bad for a town with a population of 180, not counting the dogs."

One small town woman said, "I don't know how I ever got along without the library before. I have three small children, so I can never go out, and these books are the only diversion I have." A farm woman who asked for a collection of books to be placed in her community said that her family was so fond of reading that they subscribed for about fifty dollars worth of papers and magazines in a year. "We can't buy as many books as we used to since the depression," she said, "and magazines aren't really satisfying somehow. It seems I'd rather read a book than a magazine, even if it's the same thing."

One cannot but realize, however, that it is the children to whom this chance to read good books is the greatest boon. One of the county rural education supervisors said, "These children have been hungry for books for years. They're eating them up." On the day after school closed last spring, the "Library Lady," as the supervisor is universally called, drove into a small town to set up a station in the barber shop. As she came to a stop, she was greeted by four small boys who were lined up on the fence beside the road. "You got the books? Could we help unload them?" They could, of course, and they very carefully followed the instructions about keeping the adult fiction and non-fiction separate, and putting the children's books on the lowest shelves. When they had finished, each had found the book he wanted to take home, so it was charged for him. They accepted an invitation to have an ice cream cone, and after much debate about whether it should be purchased at the grocery store owned by somebody's uncle or at the local tavern, the latter was finally favored as selling the larger cones. When that transaction was settled, they all tramped back into the barber shop, and as the supervisor drove away she saw them there, each absorbed in his book and his treat. After a week or two

the barber reported that he had been forced to put a sign saying that no books would be charged to children on Saturdays because he couldn't handle the double rush of business, and he did, after all, have to earn his living.

Rural school teachers have been especially grateful for the books, and many have reported a new interest in reading among their most backward pupils. One teacher and her fourteen primary pupils all sent notes of appreciation to the supervisor. We quote from one fourth grader. "I enjoy reading those nice books into Stella Martinson's (the proprietor of the store where the books are

kept). I have read 2 books of the bunch. I hope you will have that little library here a long while." To which she adds politely, "I am just fine. Thank you."

It is these children, of course, who are selling the library idea to the parents who have lacked the opportunity or have been too busy to learn the value of reading for themselves. As the president of one of the Farm Bureau units said, "We'd better see that our town gets a chance at this offer. I haven't read a book in twenty years myself (he seemed a little proud of this achievement) but my boys sure read."

### *Governor's Proclamation*

WHEREAS, It is universally recognized that one of the most cogent factors in the development of character and the training of youth is good reading, and

WHEREAS, Easy access to good books is indispensable, inasmuch as it is through that medium that people keep in contact with modern developments in all fields of knowledge, and,

WHEREAS, The success of a democratic form of government is dependent upon a well informed public,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, HAROLD E. STASSEN, Governor of the State of Minnesota, do hereby designate and proclaim the week of

**NOVEMBER 12-18**

**as**

**BOOK WEEK**

and I urge the people of Minnesota to lend their ardent support to the efforts being made to develop libraries and make available the best literature for the benefit of our people both in school and in the communities,

IN WITNESS THEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of Minnesota to be affixed this sixteenth day of October nineteen hundred and thirty-nine.

HAROLD E. STASSEN,  
Governor.



# STATISTICS ON WPA LIBRARY DEMONSTRATIONS

STATIONS OPERATING TO NOVEMBER 1, 1939

County	Project Opened	No. of Stations	No. of Certified WPA Attendants	No. of Books	No. of Borrowers	Circulation to Date
Blue Earth	Nov., 1938	9	4, 1 N.Y.A.	2,871	1,561	14,578
Rice	Jan., 1939	8	3	2,075	870	3,526
Mower	Feb., 1939	13	1	1,804	1,190	6,479
Waseca	Mar., 1939	5	3	1,370	1,307	8,383
Freeborn	May, 1939	14	3	2,140	1,382	5,562
Goodhue	June, 1939	15	2	1,450	975	2,169
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>64</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>11,710</b>	<b>7,285</b>	<b>40,697</b>

BOOKS ACCESSIONED TO NOVEMBER 1, 1939

Volumes		Value
6,866	Purchased from federal funds	\$ 8,069.16
9,550	Transferred from sponsor's collection	\$2,455.83
1,486	Purchased by sponsor for project use	1,222.36
715	Other contributions	266.61
<b>11,751</b>	<b>Total contributions</b>	<b>3,944.80</b>
<b>18,617</b>	<b>Grand total available to date</b>	<b>\$12,013.96</b>

PUBLICITY DATA TO NOVEMBER 1, 1939

Issues of Library Demonstrator	5	State-wide	5
Magazine articles	3	Radio scripts	44
Newspaper releases		Placard displays	8
In counties	147		

LOCATIONS OF BOOK STATIONS TO NOVEMBER 1, 1939

2 Barber Shops	6 Libraries
1 Bus Depot	2 Lumber Company Offices
1 Cheese Factory	6 Municipal Buildings
2 Drug Stores	2 Newspaper Offices
1 Electric Shop	3 Post Offices
1 Filling Station	8 Schools
1 Hardware Store	25 Stores, general and grocery
5 Homes	

ORGANIZATIONS ADDRESSED IN ALL COUNTIES BY WPA SUPERVISORS

American Association of University Women	Home Project groups
American Legion	Junior Chamber of Commerce
American Legion Auxiliary	Kiwanis Club
Church organizations	League of Women Voters
Civic Clubs	Library Board
County teachers	Lions Club
Farm Bureau	Mothers Club
4-H Club	Parent-Teachers Association
Future Farmers of America	Rotary Club
Grange	Women's Study Clubs



# MINNESOTA LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

## TRI-STATE CONFERENCE OF THE MICHIGAN, MINNESOTA AND WISCONSIN LIBRARY ASSOCIATIONS

RELLA E. HAVENS

Secretary, Minnesota Library Association

A tri-state conference of the Michigan, Minnesota and Wisconsin Library Associations was held at the Hotel Schroeder, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, October 18-21. The total number of members and guests registered at the conference was 632. Of this number, 152 were from Michigan, 80 from Minnesota and 400 from Wisconsin. The theme of the conference was *Rural Social Problems: their implications for libraries*.

### General Sessions

Miss Martha B. Merrell, president of the Wisconsin Library Association presided at the first general session. The principal speaker of the evening was Lowry Nelson, Professor of Sociology, University of Minnesota. The subject of his paper bore the title which was the theme of the conference, *Rural Social Problems and implications for libraries*.

The second general session was conducted by Miss Ruth Rosholt, president of the M.L.A. The first speaker was Miss Essae M. Culver, Executive Secretary, Louisiana Library Commission and President-Elect of the American Library Association. Her paper, *Awake at the wheel*, very aptly compared the librarian's responsibility in directing library service and in coping with present day needs to the skill with which a driver must handle his automobile on a highway of heavy traffic if the destination is to be reached successfully. Mr. Carl Vitz, Li-

brarian of the Minneapolis Public Library, reviewed the subject of federal aid. Mr. Charles H. Brown, Chairman, Third Activities Committee, A. L. A., lead the discussion on A. L. A. reorganization.

Miss Ruth Rutzen, president of the Michigan Library Association presided at the third general session which was a banquet held Thursday evening in the Crystal Ball Room. Dr. Howard Y. McClusky, Assistant to Vice-President in charge of Adult Education, University of Michigan, was the guest speaker for the evening. Dr. McClusky's paper entitled *Capitalizing a Community's Resources* challenged librarians to take cognizance of these resources in their program of better service to their communities.

The fourth and final general session was held Saturday afternoon with Nancy B. Thomas, chairman from Appleton, Wisconsin, presiding. At this session Dr. Max Lerner, Professor of Political Science, Williams College, presented with sincerity and understanding a talk on *Educating our masters*.

In addition to the general sessions the meetings of the sections were equally inspiring.

The Executive Board of the Minnesota Library Association is cooperating with the executive boards of the Michigan and Wisconsin associations in making available in printed form as many of the papers as possible which were presented at the conference.

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### BUSINESS SESSION OF THE M.L.A.

The business meeting of the forty-seventh annual conference of the Minnesota Library Association was called to order by Miss Ruth

Rosholt, president, at 10:00 o'clock Friday morning, October 20, in the English room of the Hotel Schroeder, Milwaukee, Wis-

consin. Approximately 50 members were present.

It was moved and seconded that the reading of the minutes of the last annual meeting be dispensed with since the proceedings of the forty-sixth annual meeting were published in the December, 1938, issue of *Minnesota Library Notes and News*; however, the treasurer's report for the year was read and accepted and is appended to these minutes.

The secretary read a report of the activities of the Executive Board for the year. The report was accepted.

The Association accepted the following report made by Miss Adelaide C. Rood, Chairman of the Legislative Committee:

"In October, 1938, the Minnesota Library Association at its annual meeting voted to ask the state legislature to pass two laws, one for state certification of librarians, the other for state aid to public libraries. The legislative committee appointed by your president to carry out this program submits the following report.

"Immediately following the election, three separate communications were sent to the legislators over the signature of the secretary of the Minnesota Library Association. These letters gave full information on the association's legislative program. They were sent through November and December.

"On December 14, 1938, a representative committee of librarians and educators was granted an interview with Governor-elect Harold E. Stassen. Mr. Stassen listened graciously and attentively to a presentation of the library's needs by Miss Perrie Jones. His questions showed that he had given the matter some previous consideration. Mr. Vitz, Mr. Walter and Mr. Zimmerman contributed additional facts as requested.

"With these earlier contacts as a background, the legislative committee sent out hundreds of letters to the librarians throughout the state asking that they interview or write their representatives in the legislature. One of these was a joint letter from Miss Countryman and Miss Baldwin, both veterans in the legislative committee work. The

response was immediate and gratifying. Postcards and messages were returned to indicate that over two hundred personal letters had gone directly to the legislators from librarians. Communications went also to key people throughout the state, professional people, business men, presidents of women's clubs, college clubs and Parents' and Teachers' Associations, requesting their active support of the measures. This response too was most encouraging. This method of approach avoided those form letters which make such good waste basket material.

"During the session, the House and Senate Education and Finance Committee were sent letters and were interviewed. The entire legislative committee met with the House Education Committee to iron out possible objections to the certification bill. Mr. Vitz acted as spokesman. Mr. Vitz met also with the Senate Education Committee.

"The Association financed and distributed the pamphlet, "Equal Chance," as widely as possible. A copy was placed on each desk in the legislature. Radio and newspaper gave added support to our campaign.

"When the legislature convened, an experienced lobbyist, Knute D. Stalland, was retained to watch the progress of the bills, House file No. 235 and Senate file No. 272; to aid in re-drafting them when it became necessary; to get sponsors for them; to interview the members of the Education and Finance Committees of the House and Senate, and to keep the legislative committee constantly informed when direct action was needed. That the bills were not passed was in no way the fault of our excellent, conscientious lobbyist. We faced a legislature pledged to economy. Even the certification bill, which seemed to be sure of passage and was, to informed persons, almost a non-controversial measure, was unfortunately linked in one senator's mind with a large appropriation bill, which he stated in the committee, was sure to follow if the certification bill was passed. It was a mistake but the suspicion implanted defeated the bill.

"Definitely this has been a campaign of education, not only for the legislature and the public but for the librarians themselves. The files of letters from interested citizens,

the very definite feeling of approval for the measures which came over the signature of dozens of legislators is heartening to all librarians who are just beginning to know their strength in getting solidly behind constructive library legislation.

"The last request from the committee to the members of the Senate Education Committee, the House Education Committee and the Senate Finance Committee asking that the travelling libraries be kept as a separate item of the budget and not decreased may have had some effect."

Respectfully submitted,

Twin City committee members:

Lee Zimmerman  
Rella Havens  
Ruth Rosholt  
Clara F. Baldwin  
Perrie Jones  
Frank K. Walter  
Adelaide C. Rood, Chairman

Out of town committee members:

Mrs. William F. Braasch, Rochester,  
Minn.  
Dr. Fletcher, Faribault, Minn.  
Dr. Crawford, Bovey, Minn.  
Miss Florence Love, Faribault, Minn.

The report of Mr. Lee F. Zimmerman, Director, Library Division, Minnesota State Department of Education, on the objectives of library planning in Minnesota was accepted.

A report prepared by Miss Elizabeth Bond, chairman of the Radio Publicity Committee, and read by Miss Florence Love stated that "Fact-Finders, the radio program sponsored this past year by the Minnesota Library Association, the beginning of which was announced in the report of the Radio Committee given at the Meeting of the Association in Minneapolis last October, terminated on June 30th, 1939. Thirty-nine weekly 15-minute broadcasts were given during the year. These programs were first given over KSTP, after which they were re-broadcast over six of the smaller stations scattered throughout the State. In all, more than 300 programs were given. In addition to Fact-Finders, three special scripts on State Aid

were broadcast at the time of the meeting of the Legislature in the Spring." The report was accepted.

A report on "The Peddler," a publication of the junior members, read by Mr. Harry Stritman was accepted. Mr. Carl Vitz moved that the junior members be commended for their work on this publication.

Miss Elsa H. Ihm, chairman of the Membership committee stated that there are 430 individual and 35 institutional members in the Association as compared with 457 individual and 14 institutional members in 1938. Of the individual members 54 were new memberships in 1939. Miss Ihm also reported that 77 members from Minnesota were registered at the joint conference. These reports were accepted.

Mr. Harry R. Stritman, chairman of the Constitution Revision committee, gave the following report:

"In accordance with the recommendation of the last Constitution Revision committee that 'a committee be appointed to re-arrange and revise the present form of the constitution into a more modern form, (and) to include in that re-arrangement such further changes as may be considered necessary,' a constitution so revised and changed has been presented for consideration by the Association.

"This document, in many respects patterned after that of the A.L.A., embodies the following principal changes: the membership year changed to correspond with the calendar year; the creation of a council made up of the Executive Board and the chairman of sections and standing committees; and the establishment of life memberships, the dues from which are to provide funds for a scholarship to be granted for graduate study in library science.

"The attention of the Association is invited to the fact that the committee's principal efforts have been directed to the preparation of a constitution which will not only specify in detail the organization of the Association and the duties and privileges of its officers, but one which will readily lend itself to the assimilation of such changes as may be found necessary in the future."

The constitution, as presented by the committee, was adopted with only a few minor changes.

The following report of the Voluntary Certification Board was made by Rella E. Havens, secretary:

"On December 14, 1938, there was a joint meeting of the Voluntary Certification Board and the Library Planning Board. . . . A list of candidates for certification was presented.

"Mr. Zimmerman requested that the Board delay action on this list on the basis that certificates issued at that time would arouse confusion in the minds of librarians, trustees and legislators during our legislative campaign for state certification.

"Mr. Walter moved that no action be taken by the Board on these applications.

"The second meeting of the Voluntary Certification Board was held September 20, 1939. . . . 141 Life certificates, 25 Five year certificates and 8 Three year certificates were issued.

"The Board considered it advisable to issue the first group of One year certificates as near the first of January as possible in order that their validity would more nearly correspond to the calendar year and thus simplify the annual renewals."

The report was accepted.

Miss Grace M. Stevens read the following report of the Nominating committee:

"The Nominating committee takes pleasure in presenting for your consideration the following slate of officers:

For President: Mrs. Hazel J. Halgrim of Thief River Falls.

For First Vice-president and president elect: Miss Florence D. Love of Fari-bault.

For Second Vice-president: Mr. John C. Settelmayer, librarian of the Hibbing Junior College.

For a member of the Voluntary Certification Board elected for a two year term: Miss Alma Penrose of St. Cloud.

For a member of the Voluntary Certification Board elected for a one year term: Mrs. Mildred Ritt Ostvold of the St. Paul Public Library."

Respectfully submitted,

Clara F. Baldwin,  
St. Paul, Chairman.

Grace M. Stevens,  
Rochester Public Library.

Anne Crosby,  
University of Minnesota  
Library.

The report was accepted.

The resolutions presented by Miss Lois M. Jordan, chairman of the Resolutions committee were adopted.

A resolution in memory of Miss Edna Lucy Goss presented by Miss Jessie L. Arms and Miss Amy C. Moon was adopted.

Mr. Carl Vitz moved that the Minnesota Library Association re-affirm its endorsement of the principles of federal aid to education including libraries and specifically the present bills in Congress, S. 1305 (Harrison-Thomas) and H. R. 3517 (Larrabee), and that it urges its members, librarians and library trustees of the state to promote in all proper ways its passage.

The motion was adopted.

A letter from Miss Perrie Jones was read in which she extended to the Minnesota Library Association, on behalf of the St. Paul Library, the Staff and the Library Advisory Board a cordial invitation to hold its 1940 meeting in St. Paul.

In addition to Miss Jones' letter, invitations were received from the Honorable W. H. Fallon, Mayor of St. Paul, and the St. Paul Association of Commerce.

A motion was made and seconded to hold the 1940 annual meeting in St. Paul.

On motion duly made and seconded the meeting adjourned.



## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1939\*

Balance October 1, 1938	
Savings account .....	\$ 191.42
Checking account .....	770.71
Total .....	\$ 962.13

## RECEIPTS

Membership dues for 1939 .....	\$ 481.00
Exchange on checks .....	.10
Refund on Peddler .....	3.70
Interest on savings account .....	3.61
Total receipts .....	\$ 488.41
Total balance .....	\$1,450.54

## DISBURSEMENTS

A. L. A. Contributing membership .....	\$ 25.00
A. L. A. Chapter dues .....	25.35
President's allowance .....	50.00
Secretary-treasurer's allowance .....	50.00
Postage	
Legislative committee .....	\$ 72.11
Membership committee .....	24.50
Junior Members Section .....	10.30
President .....	15.00
Secretary-treasurer .....	30.00
Legal service .....	200.00
Clipping service	
Legislative committee .....	16.75
Stationery and supplies	
McClain & Hedman Co. ....	\$ 92.99
St. Paul Public Library .....	.52
Junior Members Section	
Miscellaneous expense .....	28.77
Legislative committee	
Miscellaneous expense .....	88.95
Printing	
Syndicate Printing Co. ....	\$ 187.50
Peddler .....	22.75
Children's Section	
Book list .....	3.35
Telephone .....	2.10
Telegrams .....	2.28
Exchange on checks .....	2.77
Total disbursements .....	\$ 950.99
Total balance .....	\$ 499.55
Savings account .....	\$ 195.03
Checking account .....	304.52
	\$ 499.55

\*Books closed October 16, 1939.

Respectfully submitted,

RELLA E. HAVENS, Treasurer.



## NEWS ITEMS

### THE P. T. A. AND THE LIBRARY

The P. T. A. units are urged each year to visit their public libraries, to look into their children's reading, and to read themselves to keep abreast of the times. If they do not do so, is the fault partly that of the library? An invitation from the librarian to hold a meeting in the library club room or in the juvenile department, if children's reading is to be discussed, is usually welcomed by program chairmen as a pleasant change and Book Week is the logical time for such a meeting. Most 1939-40 officers have now been elected and will outline their programs soon. They will appreciate your offers of cooperation.—Jane Morey, Chairman Library Service, Minnesota Congress of Parents & Teachers.

### THE MCGREGOR PLAN

Through the McGregor Plan, the Scoville Memorial Library of Carleton College has recently received its second annual allotment of Americana.

In 1933, Mr. Tracy W. McGregor of Detroit, Michigan, submitted his plan of bibliographic philanthropy to Dr. C. A. Beard, who was then president of the American Historical Association. That plan has since become known as the "McGregor Plan," operating as a corporation, and intended largely for the four year liberal arts college in this country. Preference is given to the college which is not near the large metropolitan district, so that it too may be enriched in source materials. The arrangement is limited to no more than twenty libraries. The plan is submitted to the president, librarian and the American history faculty of the college.

The "McGregor Plan" corporation gives an annual allotment of \$500, which sum is duplicated by the subscribing college, bringing the total to \$1,000 year year. This amount

is to be devoted entirely to Americana. All ordering is done directly from the corporation offices, and a special effort is made to locate wanted materials. The college is expected to subscribe for a ten year period.

This liberal arrangement has made it possible to secure to a greater extent, rare items which heretofore could not possibly be obtained.—Anne V. Marinelli, Head of Catalog Dept.

### APPOINTMENTS

Helen Bennett, librarian of the Education Seminar Library, University of Minnesota is now librarian of the Duluth Junior College.

Mildred Bennett, Minnesota '35, formerly Montevideo school librarian, is the new librarian of Gustavus Adolphus College.

Winifred Carlsen, Minnesota '33, recently field supervisor of the state-wide WPA Library Project, has resigned to become librarian of the Fremont, Ohio, Public Library.

Irene Eklof, Minnesota '29, has resigned her position at Detroit Lakes to accept a position as school librarian of Bemidji.

Mrs. Merle Lennartson, Minnesota '39, has been appointed librarian of the Marshall Public Library.

Marjorie Nelson, St. Catherine '33, has resigned her position in the Chisholm Public Library to become school librarian at Grand Rapids.

Geraldine Greehling, Minnesota '39, is school librarian at Detroit Lakes.

Margaret Maguire, Minnesota '37, formerly Luverne school librarian, is now librarian of Jefferson Junior High School, Winona.

Margaret Nicholsen has resigned her position as librarian of the Bemidji State Teachers College to take advanced work at the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago. She has been succeeded by Eileen Thornton formerly on the staff of the University library.

Mae Wiita, Minnesota '37, formerly school librarian at Tracy, is now librarian of the Junior High School in St. Cloud.

#### INDEX TO LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS

An index to volume twelve of *LIBRARY NOTES AND NEWS* covering issues one through twelve for 1937, 1938 and 1939 is being prepared. It will appear with the March, 1940 number on "Library Statistics."

#### FREE MATERIAL

The St. Paul Public Library offers free, except for transportation charges; the Minneapolis city directory 1928, 1931, 1932; the St. Paul city directory 1890-91, 1910-1936.

#### RANGE TRUSTEES

The annual meeting of the Range Trustees Association was held in Virginia on Nov. 8. Following a dinner at the Fay hotel, those attending assembled at the public library for the evening's program. Emil Polster of the

Oliver Mining Co., was guest speaker. Following his talk a general discussion took place on the relations between librarians and trustees.

#### DEBATE MATERIAL

A bibliography has been prepared on the Minnesota state high school league debate question for 1939-40, "Resolved: that the federal government should own and operate the railroad" and is available from the Library Division at no cost. The references listed therein may be borrowed for three weeks under the usual loan regulations.

#### TWIN CITY CLUB

The fall dinner meeting of the Twin City Library Club was held at Ports in St. Paul on Nov. 20. Speaker of the evening was Dr. Charles E. Turck, president of Macalester College.

#### A. L. A. MEETINGS

The Drake Hotel, at Michigan Avenue and Oak Street, Chicago, will be headquarters for the A. L. A. Midwinter conference, December 27 to 30, 1939. May 26 to June 1, 1940, has been selected as the time for the 62nd annual conference of the American Library Association, to be held in Cincinnati, Ohio. General sessions will be held at the Taft Auditorium and the exhibits and group meetings at the Netherland Plaza Hotel.

# SUBSCRIPTION BOOKS REPORT

Bulletin No. 8

*The Library Division has received requests for information about the following subscription materials:*

## Recommended

**Funk and Wagnalls standard high school dictionary of the English language . . .**; ed. by Frank H. Vizetelly and Charles Earl Funk, Evanston, Ill., Row, 1939. 1008p. fabrikoid \$2.08; 25 per cent discount to libraries and schools.

Recommended though not needed by those already having the New Comprehensive Standard Dictionary (Subscription Books Committee report, Sept. 1938).

## Not Recommended

*None of these materials is approved by the State Subscription Books Committee. Detailed reviews are given in the subscription Books Bulletin of the American Library Association and will be sent by the Library Division to schools and libraries requesting them.*

**Book of Knowledge**, the children's encyclopedia; ed. by Holland Thompson and Arthur Mee, with an introduction by John H. Finley. Silver jubilee ed. rev. 20v. N. Y., The Grolier society, c1935. cloth \$69.90, artcraft \$79.90, discount to libraries 10%.

**Pictured Knowledge**: the new method of visual instruction applied to child interest, school subjects and character training . . . editor-in-chief, Garry Cleveland Myers, successor to the late Dr. Calvin N. Kendall. 8 v. Kansas City, Mo., Marshall Hughes co., c1937, \$49.80.

**Standard American Encyclopedia**; a library of universal knowledge, profusely illustrated . . . editor-in-chief Walter Miller; foreword by Gordon Jennings Laing; advisory editor W. Rainsford Boag; associate editors, J. Bradford Pengelly, Ella Wheeler Forkert. 15v. Chicago, Standard American corp., c1937. Price varies.

**University of Knowledge**: Glen Frank, editor-in-chief. 24v. 24 cm. Chicago, University of Knowledge, inc. [Consolidated book publishers, inc. 537 S. Dearborn, Chi-

cago] c1937-38. To libraries, regular binding \$24.75; de luxe binding \$32.75.

**University Illustrated Encyclopedia**, prepared under the editorship of Ralph Taylor; advisory ed., Carl van Doren, rev. ed. 15v. N. Y. The Publishers Guild, inc. c1938.

"According to the publisher, this is printed from revised plates for the World Wide Encyclopedia, reviewed in the Subscription Books Bulletin July 1935." Subscription Books Bulletin July 1939, v. 10, no. 3, p. 48.

**Volume Library**. 307 Fifth Avenue, N. Y. Educator's Assoc., c1939. 2422p. red buckram \$11.75; green fabrikoid \$13.75; de luxe eds., special binding \$15.75 and \$17.75.

**Wonderland of Knowledge**; a new pictorial encyclopedia; editor-in-chief, Lorimer V. Covins; managing editor, Paul Randall; associate editors, Bertha M. White and Roderick M. Grant. Chicago, Publishers productions, inc. c1937-38. 15v. fabrikoid \$24.75\*.

*\*(The above price is not as high as that quoted to some Minnesota school superintendents. A request to the American Library Association for further information brought this reply.*

*"The Committee's request for a statement of price from the publishers of the set, has brought an indefinite reply. They state that they have the sale price, though the amounts they mention are not those given by Mr. . . . (a Minnesota school superintendent). Their policy regarding sales to schools (prices, sales methods, etc.) is undergoing great changes and they will notify the committee when a permanent program has been decided upon."*

# B O O K S   A N D   P A M P H L E T S

## CURRENT BOOKS ON EUROPE

Compiled by ELEANOR DAVIS

Mr. Willard Heaps in his article *BOOKS FOR THE LONG AND CALM VIEW ON THE CRISIS*, published in *THE BOOKLIST* for October 1, reminds us that "the demand for impartial books without the emotionalism of propaganda has suddenly become great."

It cannot be too strongly emphasized that libraries everywhere are under the responsibility of providing essential, authoritative and unbiased material in book form to inform their readers on the complexities of the present world situation.

In addition to the list presented by Mr. Heaps, the books recommended by Dorothy Thompson as given in the *PUBLISHERS WEEKLY* of October 7, the annotated list *WORLD TODAY IN BOOKS*, by Norman Cousins in *CURRENT HISTORY* for October, and other bibliographies of recent books on world affairs have been consulted in selecting the following titles for the small library.

Books marked † are considered basic books in their field, and while they are desirable for all but the very smallest libraries, they are often too difficult for persons who are not students of history and political science. Starred titles are more popular treatments which the librarian can recommend to the average reader.

### Background Books

Dean, Mrs. Vera Michaelis. *Europe in retreat*. Ed. 2, rev. August, 1939. Knopf, 1939. 2.50. 940.5

An exceptionally good background book, brief but packed with information, a keen and unbiased analysis of Europe's diplomatic history from 1919 to 1939, by the research director of the Foreign Policy Association.

\*Gould, Kenneth M. *Windows on the world*. Stackpole, 1938. 3.00. 909

Written for high school use by the editor of Scholastic, but equally adapted to adult use is this "survey of world events and study of the background from which they have emerged." BRD

Thompson, Dorothy. *Let the record speak*. Houghton, 1939. 2.75. 940.5

Chronological comment on world affairs from 1936 to 1939, selected from the author's newspaper column.

Churchill, Winston L. S. *Step by step*. Putnam, 1939. 4.00. 940.5

A collection of the author's articles, which

have warned his fellow citizens against appeasement from 1936 to the present, and which form a brilliant commentary upon events.

\*Sheean, Vincent. *Not peace but a sword*. Doubleday, 1939. 2.75. 940.5

"Story of what happened in Europe from March, 1938, to March, 1939, as a newspaper correspondent saw it during visits to Spain, Vienna and Prague." BRD

\*Gedye, G. E. R. *Betrayal in central Europe*. Harper, 1939. 3.50. 940.5

The author, as a newspaper correspondent, witnessed the events which led to the fall of Austria and Czechoslovakia, and has written a vivid first hand account, packed with startling information.

†Buell, Raymond Leslie. *Poland: key to Europe*. Knopf, 1939. 3.00. 943.8

"Study of the political background of Poland, together with an analysis of political and economic problems." BRD

### Nazi Ideology

*Nazi primer; official handbook for schooling the Hitler youth*. Harper, 1938. 1.75. 301



"Statement of the Nazi creed, written by the Nazi themselves and used as required reading for German youths." BRD

†Hitler, Adolf. *Mein Kampf*. Reynal, 1939. 3.00. 943

This unabridged edition gives "a new insight into Hitler's mind and character." "Must be read because it still reveals potentialities if not the precise plans of Hitlerism." New republic.

†Rauschning, Hermann. *Revolution of Nihilism*. Alliance book corp., 1939. 3.00. 327.43

This exposition of Naziism by a former Nazi leader is "unquestionably the most important work yet written on political and ideological Nazi Germany." Cur. hist.

†Hambloch, Ernest. *Germany rampant: a study in economic militarism*. Carrick, 1939. 2.50. 943.085

An indictment of Naziism, dealing more particularly with the history of Germany's drive to the East, by a member of the British consular service.

\*Waln, Nora. *Reaching for the stars*. Little, 1939. 3.00. 914.3

"This gentle Quaker has . . . brought to life the suffering, struggling human beings who make up contemporary Germany. The book is so full of felt experience it is incomparably just and yet compassionate." Atlantic.

#### Soviet Ideology

†Souvarine, Boris. *Stalin: a critical survey of Bolshevism*. Alliance book corp., 1939. 4.50. 921

"Best critical history of Bolshevism from Lenin to Stalin written to date, with an analysis of the ideas and practices of the absolute ruler of one-sixth of the world's surface." Books.

Florinsky, Michael T. *Toward an understanding of the U.S.R.R.* Macmillan, 1939. 2.50. 947.084

"Analysis of present conditions in Russia under the Soviet regime . . . adversely critical of the Communists' achievements." BRD

#### Democracy vs. Totalitarianism

†Benes, Eduard. *Democracy today and tomorrow*. Macmillan, 1939. 3.00. 321.8

"Contains the substance of his lectures at the University of Chicago. Surveys the democratic spirit and the rise of totalitarian states." BRD

\*Bryson, Lyman. *Which way America*. Macmillan, 1939. .60. 335

"Offers a simple analysis and comparison of the Russian plan, the Italian plan, the German plan and the American plan as they appear to one man . . . an admirable book for family, club and discussion-group use." Wisc. Lib. Bul.

Lerner, Max. *It is later than you think*. Viking, 1938. 2.50. 320.4

This plea for vigilance in preserving democracy "begins with a searching criticism of democratic concepts and ends with a program of action." Books.

Mumford, Lewis. *Men must act*. Harcourt, 1939. 1.50. 327.73

"After analyzing the opposed principles of democracy and fascism, Mr. Mumford offers a program for us . . . of non-intercourse with fascist powers." BRD

Tracy, Merle E. *Our country, our people and theirs*. Macmillan, 1938. 1.75. 330.9

"In four parallel columns, Mr. Tracy presents the natural and social resources of Italy, Germany, Russia and the U. S. as a means of comparing dictatorship and democracy." BRD

## BOOKS OF MINNESOTA INTEREST

*The following books have been published since the Minnesota list appeared in the September issue of Minnesota Library Notes and News:*

Jaques, Mrs. Florence Page. *The geese fly high*; illus. by Francis Lee Jaques. University of Minnesota press, c1939. 3.00. In subject, style, illustrations and format, this is a companion volume to *Canoe country*, published a year ago. A visit to the marshes of northern Minnesota inspired this winter vacation to the marshes of Arkansas and Louisiana. This delight-

ful chronicle of a carefree journey contains beautiful descriptions of nature and of the bird and animal life of these regions.

Abbott, Daisy T. *Indoor gardener*. University of Minnesota press, 1939. 1.50. 716 "Everything you need to know to garden this winter in home, classroom, library or office . . . full of suggestions about plant selection, care and arrangement." L.J.

*The following three books for children are of unusual interest:*

Holberg, Mrs. Ruth Langland. *Oh Sannah!* Doubleday, 1939. 1.50. j The story of a real little girl who lived in Minneapolis when Nicollet Avenue was a country road and Indians were unwelcome callers. Illustrated in color by Richard Holberg. For girls of 7-10.

Palmer, Elizabeth. *Give me a river*. Scribner, 1939. 1.75. j "The four energetic Turngren children and Katy Lou found the St. Croix river

thrilling to live near when Minnesota was still a territory. The author includes the legend of Jenny Lind singing to the townspeople from her stranded river boat." Bklist.

Travers, Georgia, pseud. of Mrs. Scott. *Story of Kattor*. Coward, 1939. 1.50. E The author, who is assistant librarian at New Ulm, wrote for her own little girls this story of Kattor, a baby tiger with a great ambition. Illustrated by Flavia Gag. A tiny book for little children of 3 to 6.

## CURRENT PAMPHLETS

Compiled by IRMA K. SCHMALZ

FOREIGN POLICY REPORTS. Foreign policy association, Inc., 8 W. 40th St., New York, N. Y. Published twice a month. 25c each; \$5.00 a year; order directly from the association.

*Europe's diplomatic tug of war*, by V. M. Dean. v. 15, no. 9. Reviews the various alliances and pacts between countries in the struggle for a new balance of power in Europe.

*Raw material resources of Latin America*, by H. J. Trueblood. v. 15, no. 10. Brings out the importance of the Latin American countries in world economy due not only to their capacity to produce vast quantities of foodstuffs and industrial raw materials but also to their near monopoly in the production of various key materials.

*Germany's colonial claims in Africa*, by P. B. Taylor. v. 15, no. 11. "While the Reich demands outright cession of its former colonies, Britain offers only the open door in its own colonies and a vague promise of collaboration on mandatory principles. . . . The colonial issue has become part of a world-wide contest for supremacy between the British coalition and that led by Germany."

*Gold: an American dilemma*, by H. J. Trueblood. v. 15, no. 12. Covers: The background of devaluation, Depreciation of the dollar, The gold purchase plan, Gold policy 1934-1939, The rise of gold stocks 1934-1939, Reasons for gold inflow, Gold and the credit structure, and What is the gold problem?

*Outlook for Philippine independence*, by F. T. Merrill. v. 15, no. 13. In the light of developments in the Orient, public opinion differs over the Island's future; some believe that the question of independence should be reconsidered, others that the danger of a Far Eastern conflict lies in our Philippine connection.

*Will neutrality keep U. S. out of war?* by W. T. Stone. v. 15, no. 14. "This report traces briefly the history of domestic neutrality legislation, and analyses both the measures applied by the Administration and those advocated by its critics to meet the new situation."

*Europe's economic war potential*, by J. C. de Wilde and others. v. 15, no. 15. Surveys the strength and material resources of the principal belligerents, touching upon their economic staying power.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS PAMPHLETS. Public affairs committee, Inc., 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, N. Y. 10c each; for quantity rates write The Committee. Subscription for 24 consecutive numbers, \$2.00; 36, \$3.00.

No. 31—*Toward a healthy America*, by Paul de Kruif. 1939. 31p. Gives in figures the number of Americans claimed each year by tuberculosis, pneumonia, cancer, insanity, syphilis, children's diseases, and others and discusses a health program for nationwide, human conservation.

No. 32—*Cooperatives in the U. S.—a balance sheet*, by M. S. Stewart. 1939. 32p. Pre-

sents: What the cooperatives offer, The cooperative movement, Philosophy of consumers' cooperation in America, Other types of cooperation, and Related movements.

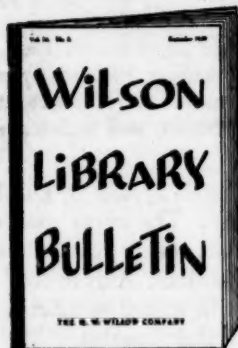
No. 33—*This problem of food*, by J. I. Rowntree. 1939. 32p. The home maker, the social worker, the county agent and others express their opinions. Aids in food selection are given in regard to calories, proteins, minerals, and vitamins.

No. 34—*What makes crime?* by W. D. Lane. 1939. 31p. Causes, extent, cost, treatment, and prevention of crime in America are included.

No. 35—*Jobs after forty*, by Beulah Amidon. 1939. 32p. The author says, "Certain things clearly need to be done: First, there should be much broader and more thorough study and research in this field; second, there is need for considered, long-range efforts on the part of individual workers, labor unions, employers and employer organizations, and government agencies to correct wrong impressions, to define and use the special abilities of the older worker, and to wipe out unjust discrimination against the 'over 40' wage earner."

No. 36—*Debts—good or bad?* by M. S. Stewart. 1939. 32p. Based on *Debts and recovery, a study of changes in the internal debt structure from 1929 to 1937*, by Albert G. Hart and the committee on debt adjustment, the twentieth century fund, 1938.

"Since the library is deeply concerned with the development of an educated citizenry, no education acquired by librarians is really sufficient for the task imposed upon them in this rapidly changing world, with its abysses of ignorance and its glories of expanding knowledge . . ." Clara W. Herbert. *Personnel administration in public libraries*. (Chicago, A.L.A., 1939. \$2.25.) p. 48.



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